

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701

3/27/76

Mrs. May Pittman Black  
Newsroom  
Memphis Press-Scimitar  
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear May,

Your season is ahead of ours but from the trees and plants spring is here. With the jonquils in bloom two weeks ago we had the season's heaviest snow, a foot, remnants of which remain despite unseasonal highs.

Then there was a sale on bagged topsoil. Ordinarily I'd never buy it with more than five acres and an abundance of wood-dirt, but considering the limitations I did and with it more plants. Then, of course, I needed a bed for the plants. When for the first time in a week I was able to get to that today and do it without the use of forbidden edged tools (I'm ~~still~~ still on anti-coagulant) I enjoyed it and enjoyed the physical tiredness. But I did afterward sit down to rest and relax with a glass of wine. So I had time to think and in the thinking my thoughts turned to you for several reasons.

I hope to be able to spend several days this coming week writing again and I saw Lesx two days ago and he had not heard from you since his (very good) stories appeared.

If you had any reaction to Les' stories or heard any <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ of any both of us would like to know. One can tell the other. Les may be assigned away from home base this ~~week~~ week but I expect to be away for short periods of not more than a couple of hours at a time and that infrequently.

Other needs have slowed my writing but I've completed rough drafts of at least ten chapters. I'm past the chapter in which I refer to you and your invaluable help. However, I did ask you to think and let me know whether you believe it not adverse to your interests to use your name. I have written it with your name in and with a flag added to ask you to be sure. I'd prefer to use your name but I'd also want to be sure that you do not believe it can hurt you. Please let me know.

If you have no independent recollection I hope you can find time to ask union people or consult your morgue to identify a union man for me. Until Jerry Wurf went to Memphis during the strike this fellow was, I believe, more or less in charge. I do not have his name. He was from (probably North) Carolina. As I understand it, immediately above Jim Pierce. What I need is his name, the hourly rate that led to the strike and the rate the union demanded. It would help to know the date and terms of settlement.

I haven't heard from Jayne since he reported non-delivery of Post Mortem. I sent him a replacement copy immediately. Not long afterward I received a small piece of the wrapping of the original package from your regional distribution center. Because we have had extensive complaints of non-delivery of insured packages I asked the local postmaster. He told us that these mechanized centers like yours are a mile or more long and were put into service before the bugs in the machinery were eliminated. He also said that pilferage is higher than ever. Don't know if this situation is a story for you.

I'm still battling with the government for suppressed information. If you know the names of any of the agents who worked on this case it might help me end some of the suppressions.

Anything new on this down there?

Best,  
Harold Weisberg